

PENDING CLAIMS

1. A device comprising a housing sized for carrying in a user's pocket and including:
a transducer to receive ambient audio and to output electrical signals corresponding thereto;
a watermark detector coupled to the transducer for producing payload information;
a memory storing user identification information; and
an interface that receives at least some of both the payload information and the user identification information for transmission to a relay station.
2. The device of claim 1 in which the interface is a wireless interface.
3. The device of claim 1 including an alphanumeric display.
4. The device of claim 1 including a keypad.
5. A method comprising:
receiving audio at a device;
discerning from the audio a plural-bit audio ID;
obtaining a user ID from a memory in the device;
transmitting at least portions of both the audio ID and the user ID to a location remote from said device.
6. The method of claim 5 in which the audio ID comprises a Digital Object Identifier.
7. The method of claim 5 that further comprises receiving the audio by a microphone.
8. The method of claim 7 that further comprises discerning at least two IDs from the audio, one being said audio ID, another being an ID corresponding to an environment in which the device is located.
9. In a method of steganographically encoding audio with a plural-bit binary watermark payload, an improvement wherein the watermark payload comprises a Digital Object Identifier.

10. A method comprising generating a noise-like signal having a plural-bit location identifier encoded therein, and airing said signal through at least one loudspeaker in an environment, said aired signal being generally indiscernible by human listeners present in said environment.

11. A device comprising a housing sized for carrying in a user's pocket and including:
a transducer to receive ambient audio and to output electrical signals corresponding thereto to the input of a processing system;
a memory storing user identification information; and
an interface coupled to an output of the processing system for receiving an identifier therefrom, and also coupled to the memory for receiving at least some of the user identification therefrom, for transmission to a relay station.

12. The device of claim 11 in which the interface is a wireless interface.

13. The device of claim 11 including an alphanumeric display.

14. The device of claim 11 including a keypad.

15. A method comprising:
receiving audio at a device;
providing the audio to a processing system;
receiving from the processing system an audio ID;
obtaining a user ID from a memory in the device;
transmitting at least portions of both the audio ID and the user ID to a location remote from said device.

16. The method of claim 15 in which the audio ID comprises a Digital Object Identifier.

17. The method of claim 15 that further comprises receiving the audio by a microphone.

18. The method of claim 17 that further comprises receiving from the processing system at least two IDs corresponding to the audio, one being said audio ID, another being an ID corresponding to an environment in which the device is located.

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23. The device of claim 3 in which the interface also receives data related to the ambient audio from the relay station, the alphanumeric display serving to present at least certain of said received data to a user of the device.

24. The device of claim 23 wherein the received data includes data representing a song title, wherein the device permits identification of a song sensed by the transducer.

25. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

responsive to said transmission, receiving data from the remote location, the received data relating to said audio; and
presenting at least some of the received audio on a display.

26. The method of claim 25 in which the received data includes data representing a song title, and the method includes presenting said song title on the display.

27. A method comprising:

receiving ambient music using a microphone in a user device;
transferring electronic signals corresponding to the received ambient music to a processor;
receiving from the processor an identifier derived from the electronic signals;
using said identifier to obtain information from a database, said information relating to the music; and
presenting at least textual information to a user about the ambient music, said presented information being based at least in part on information obtained from the database.

28. The method of claim 27 in which the textual information presented to the user specifies the artist and title of the ambient music.

29. The method of claim 27 in which the textual information provides the user an opportunity to have the music, or data related thereto, electronically sent to a destination device.

30. The method of claim 29 that further includes the act of electronically sending the music, or data related thereto, to said destination device.

31. The method of claim 29 in which the destination device is distinct from the user device.

32. The method of claim 27 in which the textual information identifies packaged media on which the music is available.

33. The method of claim 27 in which the user device includes a display, and the textual information is presented to the user on said display.

34. The method of claim 27, triggered by a user action including pressing a button on the user device.

35. The method of claim 27, triggered by a voice command of the user, acted upon by a voice recognition feature of the user device.

36. The method of claim 27 in which the device is portable, sized to carry in a user's pocket.

37. The method of claim 27 that includes:

transmitting data from the user device to a remote computer, said data including user/device data relating to at least one of the following: user name, audio delivery information, user age, user gender, model of user device, device UID, or user UID;

wherein the text presented to the user is dependent, at least in part, on said transmitted user/device data.

38. The method of claim 27 wherein the user device has wireless transmit and receive capabilities.

39. The method of claim 38 in which the wireless device has a store-and-forward capability, wherein ambient music can be stored and later identified if wireless service is not available at the time when the ambient music is received by the microphone.

40. The method of claim 27 that includes providing to the user one or more internet links determined - by reference to the identifier - to correspond to the ambient audio.

41. The method of claim 27 that further includes the act of processing the transferred electronic signals to generate the identifier.

42. The method of claim 41 in which said processing is performed in the user device.

43. The method of claim 41 in which the processing comprises decoding a watermark from the transferred electronic signals.